Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A holographic record erasing method, comprising projecting an object beam for erasing and a reference beam for erasing onto a crosstalk layer and forming a crosstalk hologram in the crosstalk layer in a superimposed manner with respect to data holograms multiplex-recorded in a recording layer of a holographic recording medium, the crosstalk layer being provided substantially adjacent to the recording layer, being formed of one of a photopolymer, a dichroic holographic material and a photorefractive material, the photopolymer develops photosensitivity through a polymerization initiator having an absorption edge at a wavelength shorter than those of an object beam and a reference beam, the photosensitivity in the dichroic holographic material can be turned ON-OFF by the presence or absence of a gate beam, and the photorefractive material exhibits photosensitivity only under the presence of an electrostatic field and being set to exhibit no sensitivity or very low sensitivity to interference fringes of the object beam and the reference beam at the time of data hologram recording in the recording layer, wherein: data holograms are angle-multiplex-recorded; and the reference beam for erasing has a beam diameter upon the projection onto the holographic recording medium 2 to 10 times the diameter of a beam which is projected onto the holographic recording medium at the time of data hologram recording.

9. (Previously Presented) The holographic record erasing method according to claim 8, wherein the reference beam for erasing is projected onto the holographic recording medium at an incident angle within an incident angle range of the reference beam at the time of recording.

10. (Original) The holographic record erasing method according to claim 8, wherein the reference beam for erasing is projected simultaneously or sequentially at a plurality of incident angles at an angular interval which corresponds to a plurality of angular pitches between the data holograms.

11. (Original) The holographic record erasing method according to claim 9, wherein the reference beam for erasing is projected simultaneously or sequentially at a plurality of incident angles at an angular interval which corresponds to a plurality of angular pitches between the data holograms.

12. (Currently Amended) The holographic record erasing method according to ~~claim 7,~~ claim 8, wherein ~~an~~ the object beam for erasing is subjected to random amplitude modulation.

13. (Currently Amended) The holographic record erasing method according to ~~claim 7,~~ claim 8, wherein ~~an~~ the object beam for erasing is projected through an objective lens having a numerical aperture smaller than a numerical aperture of an objective lens for projecting ~~an~~ the object beam at the time of recording of the data hologram.

14. (Currently Amended) The holographic record erasing method according to ~~claim 7,~~ claim 8, wherein: the data holograms are phase-code-multiplex-recorded; and a reference beam for erasing is subjected to phase-code-modulation by means of a pattern which is not orthogonal to a phase-code employed at the time of recording.

15-23. (Canceled)